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Information

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INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SUBJECT	Installations at and around Lepaya Naval Base	DATE DISTR.	9 September 1955
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

Locations are given according to Stadtplan von Libau (Lepaya), Generalstab der Luftwaffe, 1:10,000, 1941. 25X1

- The main three-mast radio transmitter in Lepaya was located north of the Naval Harbor Canal, across from Lāplēša Park, and between Sarkanarmijas Street and the sea (see sketch No. 1, page 3, and square B-4, Stadtplan von Libau (Lepaya), Generalstab der Luftwaffe, 1:10,000, 1941). The transmitter used to have four masts, but the fourth fell during World War II. Red lights on top of these masts burned at night. Other lights visible at night were the chimney fires at the Lepaya Ship Machine-Building Plant No. 29, Lepaya Sugar Refinery, the old power plant at the corner of Rīgas and Basteina Streets in Jaunlepayā, and from the chimney of the Korona Leather Products Factory in Leclepayā. The 25X1 most distinctive light came from the open-hearth furnaces of the Sarkanais Metalurģis Plant. The bright light lasted for about three minutes and appeared irregularly, every ten minutes, or at one to two hour intervals. Another light visible was the intermittent white light of the Lepaya lighthouse, which could be seen in clear weather from fishing boats at a distance of 20-25 km from shore. The light flashed only towards the sea, but it could also be seen along the 25X1 Lepaya (N 56-31, E 21-01)-Nīca (N 56-21, E 21-04) highway to the south. The light became visible 15 km south of Lepaya at the Bernāti (N 56-23, E 20-59) curve. Source thought that the lighthouse was no longer painted in red and white rings; he believed the tower was now red and the top of the lighthouse, white.
- A restricted area, with four high, round, gray-colored gasoline tanks, surrounded by a yellow brick wall, was located at the southeast end of the Naval Harbor Canal (see sketch No. 2, page 3). Two tanks under construction in 1952, were believed completed now. There was a fuel pumping station between the railroad and the canal, near the piers. The fuel consisted of gasoline, naphtha, and a yellowish fluid, called "soljarka" (sic). This area was surrounded by a wooden fence with barbed wire on top. At least two tankers, with 300-ton displacements, were seen in Lepaya. 25X1

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

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3. There were three, four-to five-inch artillery pieces near the beginning of the Northern Mole.<sup>1</sup> One was about 150 m south of the railroad tracks, and the other two were further south and about 60 m apart. These guns were mounted on a revolving platform about 150-200 m from the seashore; they had a crew shield. The same caliber coast artillery guns were located in a restricted area, somewhere in the woods, about three km north of the Northern Mole. The Soviets claimed to have artillery with a range of 35 km, but it was not clear whether they referred to the coast artillery, or the ships' armament.
4. The old forts about 2.5 km north of the Naval Harbor Canal were in a restricted area surrounded by a barbed wire fence. This was the former fifth post of the artillery laboratories. These forts, guarded by sailors and infantry, were now used to store artillery ammunition. There were about 30 T-34 tanks about midway on the northern side of the road going from the northern end of the Northern Basin to the Cathedral (A-5). About half of the tanks were placed in low wooden barns, and half were in the open. Each barn accommodated four to five tanks. Only five or six tanks remained after 1950 or 1951; judging by the tracks, they probably were taken further north. The water tower was the tallest building at the Naval Harbor. It was a rectangular, red-brick building, about five stories high, and located east of the tank area (see sketch No. 3, page 4). Dismantled MIGs were transported to Batas Airfield from a loading ramp located about 200 m southeast of the water tower (see same sketch). A large armory was located southeast of the loading ramp. This building was once used for horseback riding. Barracks for sailors and infantry were located between this building and the Northern Basin (see same sketch).
5. Four antiaircraft guns of the same caliber as the antiaircraft guns on the northern end of the Free Harbor quay were dug in on the south end of the old forts (C-9). A low, barbed wire fence was around the old fort, near the end of Tosmare Lake (A/E-9). A white sign with the words "You will be shot without warning" in Russian, was located west of the canal. There was an infantry guard at the gate. Source believed that this was an ammunition dump.
6. Artillery ammunition was transported around 1949 by trucks with red flags to the old fort between the Naval Harbor Canal and Lepaya Lake (D-7). This ammunition was then taken by truck to the KIROV, anchored nearby in a drydock. Two wooden dummy guns, used to mislead enemy aircraft, were placed on the little island at the northern end of Lepaya Lake (D-9).
7. The Skade firing ranges, located north of the Naval Harbor, were located between the seashore and the Skade road.<sup>2</sup> The ranges were about two km long. Heavy artillery and tanks were seen south of the gully, somewhere in the woods.
8. Air alarms in Lepaya were sounded by several short siren blasts and the all-clear was indicated by two or three long blasts. All sailors had to put on gas masks during these alarms, and the vessels were sometimes fogged. These air alarms were usually practices and were carried out only in the Naval Harbor. However, there were times when antiaircraft batteries fired at planes flying at high altitudes over Lepaya. Several thin-sheet iron barrels holding about 50 lt. were set up in the plant area for smoke screen purposes.<sup>3</sup> A white, smelly smoke fumed out when a valve on the barrel was opened. Barrels of this type were buried around 1948 or 1949 along the Lepaya-Grobina (N 56-32, E 21-11) highway, between Sarkanais Metallurgs Plant and Saules muiža. The barrels became targets for boys throwing stones and were damaged as a result. They were not replaced.

Comments

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1.  there were five or six coastal artillery guns at the Northern Mole of Lepaya Naval Harbor.
2. See square H-1 on 41-Lepaya, Geodetic-Topographic Section, Army Staff [Latvia], 1:200,000, 1940 ed.
3. Source here presumably means the Lepaya Ship Machine-Building Plant No. 29.

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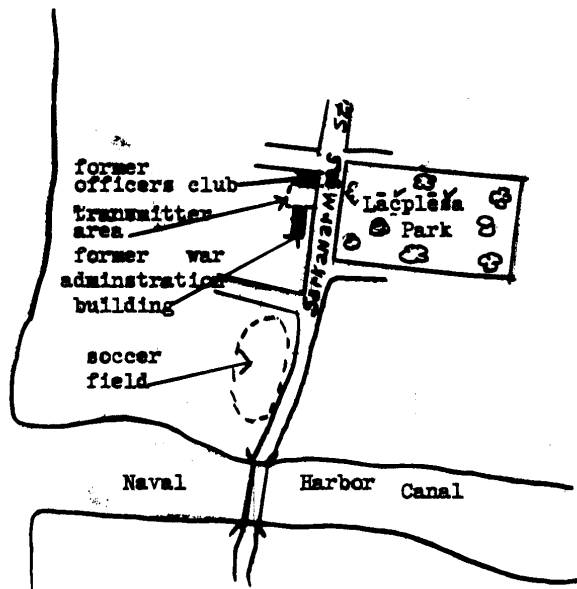
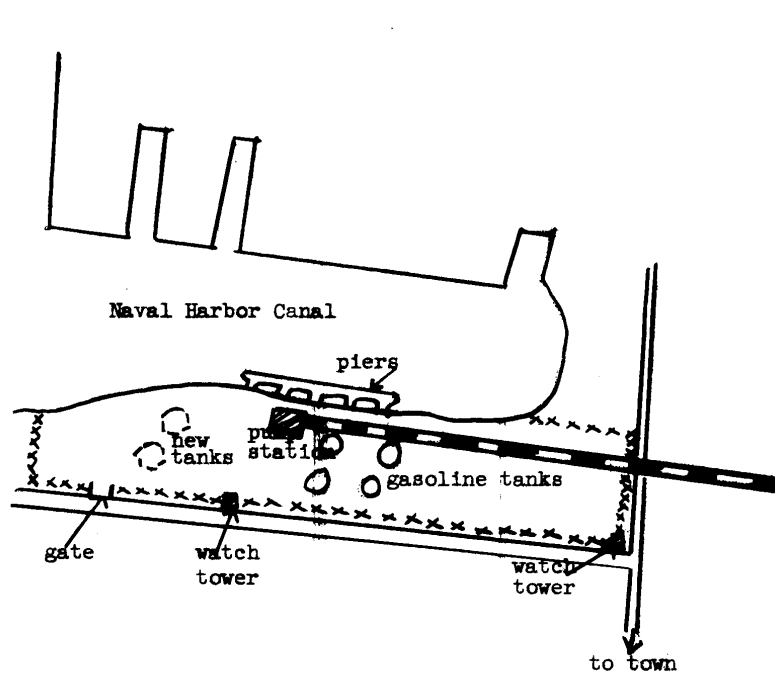
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Sketch No. 1:Location of Lepaya Radio TransmitterSketch No. 2:Location of Gasoline Tanks at Lepaya

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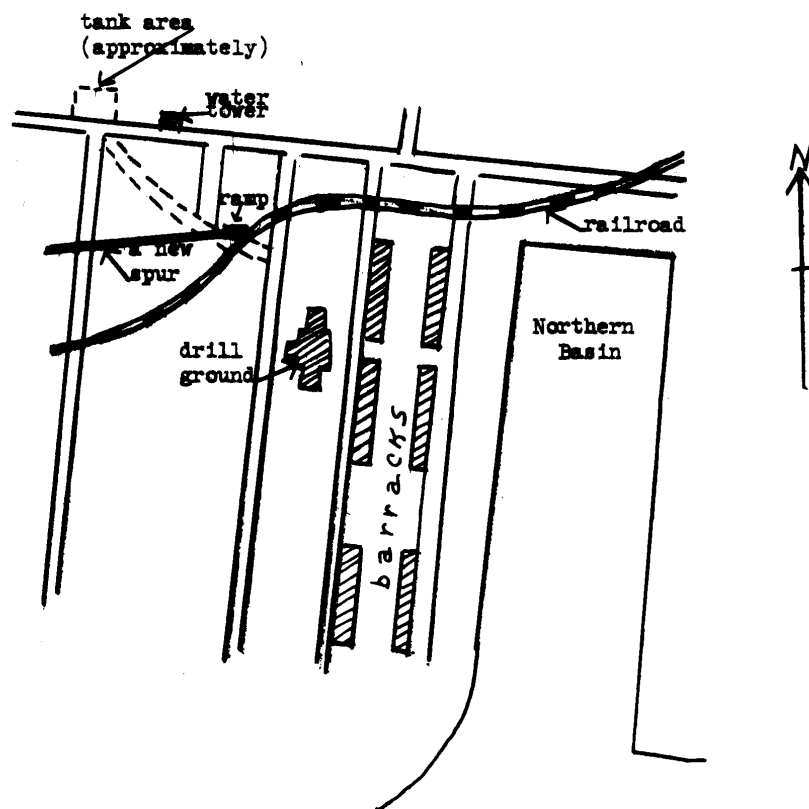
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Sketch No. 3:

Location of Water Tower at Lepaya



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